



MAY 2025

NEWSLETTER



Message from your Admin Team

April was a busy month. On April 10, we welcomed members from the Central Okanagan Public School's **Indigenous Education Council**. Each board of education is required to establish and maintain an Indigenous education council (IEC) to support the provision of comprehensive and equitable education and support services for Indigenous (First Nations, Metis, and Inuit) students and improve Indigenous student outcomes. This includes advising on the appropriate integration of Indigenous worldviews and perspectives, advising on grants in relation to Indigenous students, and ensuring respect for our local First Nations whose territories our schools are on. The council members observed students learning from and alongside syilx multimedia visual artist **Sheldon Pierre Louis**. As part of our yearlong "**Welcoming the Salmon**" project, Sheldon spent a week at PGE helping us co-create a legacy artwork for the school foyer. This piece will deepen our collective responsibility to tmixw (all living things) and expand our understanding of siwltkw (water). Students collaborated with Sheldon to craft a canvas salmon using fabric from tipi end pieces. Their individual creations will form part of a larger collective salmon installation, serving as a centerpiece to welcome the salmon home. This artwork will remain at the school as a shared expression of learning and connection.

This past week, our students in grades 1-5 participated in the '**Okanagan Freestyle Fencing**' program in our gym. Fencing is an exciting sport that improves cardio, strength, balance, and eye-hand coordination, and it can be matched to all ability levels! Fencing is often called physical chess, as it involves the same aspects of focus, strategy, and decision making. These mental aspects of the sport help our athletes to become confident and disciplined.

Track and Field - Now that we can count on more sunshine and warmer afternoons (maybe!!), you will be seeing the Intermediates honing their **Track and Field** skills three days a week after lunch. Thanks to a group of willing teachers, we are once again providing an array of track and field experiences for grades 4 and 5. Each student will be exposed to many new skills that they can apply to our fun Apple Bowl Track and Field Meet, slated for Wednesday, May 26. If you are not aware, this is the day when we take all intermediates to participate, along with Oyama Traditional School, in a fun, light-hearted track and field experience at the Apple Bowl, where good sportsmanship, honest effort and teamwork are more important than talent. **We are still looking for parent volunteers. If you can help, please contact your child's teacher.** Students looking for a competitive experience may be chosen to attend the School District Track Meet on Thursday, June 5. We will be allowed to send two boys and two girls from each grade to each of the events. There is also an additional competitive opportunity for students offered by Okanagan Athletics Club. They are hosting a "**Twilight Meet**" on May 23rd. It's open to all ages from 9 years old and older. This meet is perfect for those wanting to compete or for those wishing to learn more about Track and Field. There will be coaches at each event to help athletes that want some pointers and guidance. More info is available at <https://okac.ca/twilight-meets/>

Battle of the Books - On Thursday, April 24th, our school sent a team of students to compete in the **Battle of the Books**, hosted at Casorso Elementary. Congratulations to the students who participated - **Celina Mai (Gagnon), Connor Schumer (Gagnon), Raphael Paulino Fortes de Moura (Gagnon), Savy Vickery (Catton), Teagan Little (Dion), Reya Bruce (Krastel), and Halle Black (Krastel)**. They were great ambassadors of École Peter Greer. Job well done with great effort, attitude, and commitment throughout the year. They competed against 14 other schools in the district testing their knowledge of the 8 books they read.



KINDERGARTEN HEALTH & WELLNESS EVENT



Colouring Contest!



Guessing Game!



Family Hub - Pearson
Road Elementary,
700 Pearson Road,
Kelowna



Tattoos & Stickers!



Hello Kindergarten Parents. Do you have a child needing their 4-6 year old immunizations? **Public Health Nurses invite you to book into our Kindergarten Health and Wellness Event.**



Book by appointment:
250-980-4825

No appointment? No problem! You are still welcome to come by and ask questions about public health services and book an appointment for the future. Even if your child is up-to-date on immunizations, all are welcome to attend!

Mental Health Week

This year, Mental Health Week runs from May 5th to 11th, with the Canadian Mental Health Association's theme being 'Unmasking Mental Health'. This theme encourages us to look beyond the surface and recognize the whole person. Through this approach, we can spark a ripple effect of courage and understanding.

Mental Health Week aims to raise awareness of the importance of maintaining our mental health, end the stigma around mental health issues, educate people about mental health supports, and increase the conversation about mental health. Let's come together to raise awareness, promote understanding, and support mental health initiatives. **Students and staff are encouraged to wear GREEN on Wednesday, May 7th.**

Welcome to



Kindergarten Parent Orientation!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

4:30 PM

On Zoom <https://sd23.zoom.us/j/6512159894> (Meeting ID: 6512159894)



**Central Okanagan
Public Schools**

Together We Learn

The School Bus Transportation Application for September 2025 (2025-2026 year) is now open!

IMPORTANT

Although school bus transportation applications are accepted throughout the school year, priority seating for the 2025–2026 school year is given to those applicants who have applied before end of day on **May 31, 2025**

Use the link below to submit a school bus transportation application for the 2025-2026 school year.

<https://busconnect.sd23.bc.ca>

Students must be registered to ride on the school bus, for detailed information regarding student eligibility for transportation please visit our website:

<https://www.sd23.bc.ca/transportation-services-programsservices>

470R – Transportation Services Management – Guiding Principles for Transportation
in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

<https://www.sd23.bc.ca/documents/24bb4ba9-1cff-53b9-b0a4-a7dcde0e2c1b>

!!STOP!!

**For RED FLASHING LIGHTS
IT'S THE LAW**



Safety is everyone's responsibility

CURIOUS ABOUT PAC?

The PAC exists to provide closer links between home and school, and is a great way to bring staff, parents, and families together socially in support of the school.

Everyone Welcome!

All parents/guardians are welcome and encouraged to join and participate in collaborative decisions. It is a great opportunity to connect with admin and school community.

Meetings are on the second Tuesday of the Month in the Library.

What do we do?

- Advocate for public education and provide leadership in school.
- Encourage communication between parents, school administrators, teachers, and students.
- We build community and fundraise money to support activities for all students at Peter Greer Elementary.

Building Community

- Help strengthen the school community by organizing events like the Fall Social and Family Fun Night.
- Apply for grants. Check out the new sensory path!
- Organize the Tuesday Fun Lunch program!
- Distribute monthly Fruits, Veggies and Milk program.
- Teacher appreciation!

Fundraising

We fundraise to provide our children with extracurricular experiences and help fund things like the fish tank, compost program, new books, and equipment. Here are some of our fundraisers:

- Art Cards (October)
- Winter Plants (November)
- Winter 50/50 (December)
- Spring 50/50 (May)
- Mable's Labels (ongoing)
- Tru Earth (ongoing)
- Hot lunch (ongoing)

Parent Advisory Council

The Peter Greer Elementary Parent Advisory Council (PAC) needs parents/guardians to get involved with the PAC.

Some of the 2024-2025 PAC Executive members will be stepping down from their positions and we are looking for new people to join our team for the 2025-2026 school year. Without a full functioning PAC, the students and school will not be able to benefit from the Provincial Gaming Grant (approximately \$9,000 per year) that is issued every FALL. These funds are used towards extracurricular events, field studies, equipment etc., for the students and staff to create amazing learning environments. The School Act gives parents the right, through PACs, to assume an advisory role in every school. PAC is the officially recognized collective voice of parents of their school. Please see (Curious About PAC?) for further information.

Our next meeting is **Tuesday, May 13, 2025**, and our Annual General Meeting is Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 6pm in the Library at Peter Greer Elementary or via zoom. If you are interested in joining the PGE PAC for 2025-2026 school year, please contact Taylor Conlin: pge.pacpresident@sd23.bc.ca as soon as possible.

ATTN: PGE PARENTS

Family Fun Night Help Needed



Please contact: pge.pacpresident@sd23.bc.ca



Track and Field Meet at Apple Bowl

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Track and Field for our Intermediate classrooms is officially starting! As you may already know, our annual Apple Bowl with Oyama Traditional School event relies heavily on parent volunteers. This year is no different. We are seeking parents to lead our groups from station to station, help run various track events, and general supervision. If you are available and would like to volunteer, please return the bottom of this sheet to your child's teacher as soon as possible! The Apple Bowl experience is truly a special one!

Apple Bowl will be on Wednesday, May 28th from 9:00 am - 1:30 pm.

Thank you for all your help!

PGE & OTS Intermediate Teaching Teams

XX

Dear PGE Teacher,

I can help out at the Apple Bowl Track Meet on Wednesday, May 28th.

My name is: _____

My participating child is: _____ in grade _____.

The best way to get in touch with me with more information is to:

Email or text or call me @ _____

I will be: (circle one)

a. Arranging my own transportation to and from the Apple Bowl

OR

b. Riding the bus with the students (ONLY if space is available)

Celebrating 5 years of the Largest Children's Festival in the BC Interior

HA **Kidzfest**
HA Penticton, BC
HA

Presented by



JUNE 5-7, 2025
OK LAKE PARK, PENTICTON

\$11 in advance -- \$12 at the gate

Tickets available at www.hahahakidzfest.com



Canada Council for the Arts
Conseil des arts
du Canada



Bradford Bookkeeping

Kindergarten Transition Information for 2025-2026

Families should have received confirmation of registration letters for both English and French at École Peter Greer Elementary for the 2025-2026 school year.

We are so excited to meet all of you and your children! To start the welcoming process, we ask that you:

- **Attend the Parent Information Session on Zoom @ 4:30 pm Wednesday, May 21.** This will be a short presentation of what to expect and an opportunity to ask questions. You can join the Zoom meeting: <https://sd23.zoom.us/j/6512159894> (Meeting ID: 651 215 9894)
- Show your child our **introductory video**. A link will be emailed to you and placed on our website in early June. The video will help students familiarize themselves with some PGE faces and spaces.
- If there is anything you would like us to know about your child that you feel may ease their transition, please fill out this optional [digital form](#). We will be gathering additional information during the first week of school in September.
- **Play Based Sessions** – You and your child are invited to attend school for a learning session so that they are introduced to a school-based learning through play experience. Sessions are limited to 8 students for each group so please RSVP by signing up for a session [here](#). These sessions are being held in our StrongStart Centre.

The other half of the **Kindergarten Transition** process will take place in the first week back to school starting on Tuesday, September 3.

In late August, you will receive a letter/email detailing additional plans for helping your child make a successful transition to Kindergarten. Some key dates for these plans are:



Tuesday, Sept. 2	First Day of School for Grades 1-5. Orientation Mini Session for K Students <u>and</u> Parents. The day will be divided into two sessions and a parent or guardian <u>must attend</u> . More detailed information will be shared in a separate letter to parents in late August.
Wednesday, Sept. 3	Mini Sessions for Students Only
Thursday, Sept. 5	Mini Sessions for Students Only
Friday, Sept. 5	<u>No school</u> for your child as this day will be used for forming/deciding classroom placements for the year. Please expect a call on this day to learn who your child's Kindergarten teacher will be.
Monday, Sept. 8	First Full day of Kindergarten for all students

The purpose of these mini-sessions is to share information about basic daily routines and expectations for kindergarten students and to provide an opportunity for your child to see the school/class and meet some of the other students. **Please note that classroom placements are not determined until Friday, September 6, after teachers have had an opportunity to assess each class grouping.**

Classroom Placement in September

We are currently holding student placement meetings to arrange classes for September. Your child's current teacher plays a significant role in making these decisions as does next year's teachers, Administration, and in some cases, staff from support services (i.e., Learning Assistance teacher, Counselor, Inclusion Teacher etc.). The development of class lists is given a great deal of time, careful thought and understanding with the knowledge teachers have of each student and what will be in the child's best interest. Since teachers see how students function in a classroom every day, they are confident that they can make a suitable placement for your child. Every year, we have a small number of parents wishing to make placement requests for their children and we ask that those requests come before we start the process of creating classes. We do encourage parents to have a conversation with your child's current classroom teacher prior to making a request. **Parents requesting a specific class configuration/division, should place their request in writing to their current classroom teacher and copy to the office.** Requests for placements are considered during the class building process, but not all can be accommodated for a variety of factors, and we are not able to accommodate parent requests for students to be 'switched' from one class to another once classes have been set.

There are many factors that are considered in the process:

- academic achievement
- class size, composition and balance between genders
- neuro-divergent needs of students
- learning and teaching styles
- peer dynamics and social groupings
- teacher and School Based Team recommendations
- previous placement history

It should be noted that there are several additional factors, including changing enrolments, Provincial class size and composition legislation, and budget restrictions, that sometimes make the placement of students a very complex issue. Therefore, parent requests will be accepted as input but should not be considered as the driving force behind placement decisions. Our goal in creating each classroom composition is to provide the best possible educational placement for the students within the various constraints of the system within which we function. We appreciate your understanding of this very important issue.

We will reassess the class and school organization after the August registration period as we become aware of any enrolment changes that have taken place over the summer. As is the case every year in all schools, teaching assignments and class organizations are subject to change in the fall. Class lists will be posted (by student PEN number) on our website on the Friday before the first day of school in September and again by name at the front of the school on the morning of the first day of school. In this process, the Principal has the ultimate responsibility under the *School Act* for the final decision regarding placements of students.

School Organization

As of May 2026, our projected enrolment is approximately 380 students. The **tentative** teaching staff and class configuration are as follows. We are just starting the staffing process.

English Program

Kindergarten/Gr. 1	Cheryl Mazey	Grade 3/4	Jacquie Portwood
Kindergarten/Gr. 1	Kim Payne	Grade 4/5	Sarah Letourneau
Grade 1/2	Marijke Albrecht	Grade 4/5	Kristen Dion
Grade 1/2	Megan Cliff	Grade 4/5	Nicky Krastel
Grade 1/2	Temp TBA	Grade 3	Kendra Harper
Grade 2/3	Temp TBA		

French Program

Kindergarten	Kelly Tait	Grade 2/3	Keri Gagnon
Kindergarten/1	Jenna Henderson	Grade 3/4	Jenn Dewolf
Grade 1/2	Kristina Starling	Grade 4/5	Christy Catton
Grade 1/2	Temp TBA		

James Minkus	Principal	Tracy Kuzik	Vice Principal
Sherri Savage	Teacher-Librarian / ELL	Cheryl Elsworth	Speech & Language Pathologist
Dana Guthrie	PE/Prep/Support	Emma Sarbit	Inclusion Teacher
Rose Alexis	Indigenous Advocate	Kelli Cook	Counsellor
Danielle Petryshyn	Learning Assistance English	Caley Nuyens	Administration Assistant
Lenora Manuel	Inclusion Teacher		
Rebecca Carr	Primary Music/Prep	Susan Elliott	Learning Assistance French
Monica Martin	ARC Student Support Clinician	Chelsea Coates	Strong Start Facilitator
Heather Siemens	Literacy Intervention Teacher	Shauna Lyon	Library Assistant

Support Staff

Connie Radis	Certified Education Assistant	Anita Peter	Certified Education Assistant
Wendy Parfitt	Certified Education Assistant	Victoria Galloway	Certified Education Assistant
Sheri Jensen	Certified Education Assistant	Marissa Holt	Certified Education Assistant
Ashley Cornelius	Certified Education Assistant	Veronica Hudj	Certified Education Assistant
Kathryn Gevers	Certified Education Assistant		



*My Family Rocks from
Mme. Kelly's Class*

Enter a World of Colour and Light

FIRST TIME
IN B.C.!

LUMINARIUM: ARBORIALIS

by Architects of Air

at

HA Kidzfest
HA Penticton, BC
HA

"It's like wandering into an 11,000 square foot kaleidoscope!"

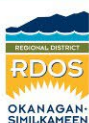


JUNE 5-8, 2025

OK LAKE PARK, PENTICTON

\$8 in advance -- \$10 at the gate

Tickets available at www.hahahakidzfest.com



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Bradford Bookkeeping



Rotary
Club of Penticton Sunrise



Blended Classes

As the school year draws to a close, some parents may find that in the coming school year, their child will be placed in a "mixed age, split or blended" classroom. There is a great deal of research showing both pros and cons, but the reality is, blended classes are in every school and at every grade level across North America.

Here are some considerations of blended classes:

- Achievement is the same as, or better than, the academic achievement of children in same-grade classrooms. Mixed-age classrooms do not negatively affect student achievement, and students in these classrooms have significantly more positive attitudes toward school, themselves, and others (Stone,1998; Veenman,1996).
- There is a wide range of academic, social, and emotional abilities within any grade grouping.
- Students are assigned a grade based on their age and not based on academic achievement, ability or social/emotional factors. In every classroom, there are students who may be reading at one, two, even three grade levels higher or lower than the grade they are assigned. Blended classes can often have less of a range of abilities because students are sometimes grouped homogenously. It's a fact that in any classroom, there will be at least 3-4 different reading levels amongst the students. This is why all Primary classrooms have leveled reading resources from levels 4 – 17. This allows teachers to match each student's needs to an appropriate level.
- The curriculum focuses on each student's needs and skills as opposed to grade level content. With the focus on skills and core competencies, grade configuration is not a significant factor in student achievement. Engaging students in personalized, deep learning is our goal and blended classes lend themselves to this approach.

Other Considerations of Blended Classrooms

Instead of looking at a classroom of students 'assigned' to a specific grade due to their birthdate, think of the classroom as simply a group of students, all at different levels of ability, needs and strengths.

Children develop a sense of family with their classmates. They become a "family of learners" who support and care for each other. Older children can serve as mentors and take leadership roles.

Children are more likely to cooperate than compete. The spirit of cooperation and caring makes it possible for children to help each other as individuals, not see each other as competitors. This is consistent with our school district's goal to ensure we prepare all students for today and tomorrow, and to inspire them to be thinkers, learners, collaborators, contributors, and innovators – attributes that can only be developed in diverse learning environments.

In a multi-age classroom, older children model more sophisticated approaches to problem solving, and younger children can accomplish tasks they could not do without the assistance of older children. This dynamic increases the older child's level of independence and competence.

Blended classrooms promote a positive school culture because the older students have learned the routines of the school and they are in a position, through daily classroom experiences, to model, mentor and help support the younger students. They "show them the ropes" so to speak (a very powerful influence, more so than adults).

École Peter Greer
Entertainment Presents

Talent Show

**UNLEASH YOUR
INCREDIBLE TALENT**

THURSDAY, MAY 29

**MATINEE FOR STUDENTS & STAFF @ 12:15
PARENT AUDIENCE PERFORMANCE @ 5:30 PM**

AUDITIONS START FIRST WEEK OF MAY
LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION COMING HOME SOON!

★ WWW.PGE.SD23.BC.CA

★ CALL 250-870-5129

FUN LUNCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

- ✓ Tuesdays between 10:15am - 12pm
- ✓ Deliver lunches to the classrooms
- ✓ Kids see the value of volunteering
- ✓ Sign up at: www.signup.com/go/pgepac





École Peter Greer Elementary

Parents are encouraged to read this to their kids to teach them about getting to school

KIDS, BE STREET S.M.A.R.T.!

SIDEWALKS:

Use sidewalks! Stay on the inside edge, and stand away from the edge when you want to cross the street. If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic so that you can see oncoming vehicles.

MUSIC:

If you are listening to music, remove one earpiece while crossing the street or walking in your neighbourhood, so you can hear the traffic around you.

ATTENTION:

Watch out for moving vehicles backing out of driveways, back alleys, and in parking lots.

ROAD CROSSING:

Always cross at an intersection or crosswalk. To cross safely, make eye contact with the drivers in all lanes to make sure they are stopped.

TEAM UP:

It's safer and more fun to walk to school with family or friends and good exercise too.

Neighborhood Safety Tips

SAFETY IN NUMBERS

Team up with another parent or neighbor to share the responsibilities of walking to and from school. If students are older, encourage them to walk with friends or older siblings.

AWARENESS AND INDEPENDENCE

Teach your children how to stay safe by identifying friendly neighbours or safe public places. Warn them about high traffic areas or corners that might hide hazards. Exploring and teaching kids about your community and city at a young age are lessons that will help them travel safer.



Park & Walk

Families who are unable to walk all the way to school can still contribute to improved traffic safety and healthy schools. Park at your school's designated area or, park legally on a street away from the school. Walk the last few blocks with your children, allowing them to enjoy a little extra active time outdoors.

Parents are welcome to start a Walking School Bus program, check with Peter Greer Elementary for more details.

S.U.P.E.R. Bike Safety

Practice these bike safety tips at all times when riding your bike!

Signs: Use your hand signals when riding your bike and obey traffic signs.

Use caution: Leave space when riding next to parked cars and watch out for doors swinging open. Wear light or bright coloured clothing, bike lights and reflectors, so you can be easily seen.

Protection: wear your helmet when riding your bike - it's the law.

Eye contact: Make eye contact with other road users (drivers and pedestrians) to improve safety for everyone.

Right hand side: Ride your bike single file and as far to the right hand side of the road as possible. Use bike lanes if they are available.





TRY ARTISTIC SWIMMING FOR FREE

H2O ADVENTURE AND FITNESS
CENTRE

APRIL 22 - 6:15 - 7:15 PM

APRIL 29 - 6:15 - 7:15 PM

MAY 21 - 7:00 - 8:00 PM

ALL AGES WELCOME
WAIVER AVAILABLE AT
KELOWNADOLPHINS.COM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US
AT [INFO@KELOWNADOLPHINS.COM](mailto:info@kelownadolphins.com)



SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS NEEDED

Do you have a passion to work with children or youth, enjoy driving and excited to have the holidays and summers off with your children?

Central Okanagan Public School District is in need of professional drivers to operate our school bus routes

For more information contact Transportation Services
250-870-5151 or email us at transportation@sd23.bc.ca

To apply

Scan the QR code or use the link: <https://bit.ly/SD23BusDrivers>



\$28.23 per hour

Applicants must have:

- Completed Grade 10
- A valid Class 1 or 2 B.C. Driver's License with Air Brake Endorsement
- A clear Driver's Abstract



Central Okanagan
Public Schools
Together We Learn



UBCO Summer Camps

Get in the game this summer with UBCO Heat Sport Camps!

Led by nationally recognized coaches and student athletes, UBCO Heat Sport Camps offer a fun-filled week of skill development. These camps are a great way to introduce youth ages 5 to 17 to a sport or help them improve their techniques. Camp programming includes basketball, volleyball, biking and more. Camps are set to run in July and August at UBC Okanagan. Check out goheat.ca/camps to learn more and register today! Contact ubcoheat.summercamp@ubc.ca for additional information.



Welcoming the Salmon with sylix Artist Sheldon Louis

